THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

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Original Novel.

THE OLD LOYALIST.

A Tale of the American Revolution.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BY ONE AUTHOR OF "LEAVES FROM A LAWYER'S PORT FOLIO."

"To write in such a measure wise,
Which may be wisdom to the wise,
And play to them that list to play."—*Gower*

CHAPTER XIII.

Here stands the union"—The Woodman.
"To cut a single member."—*Fatal Curiosity.*

In one of those old-fashioned, ensconsted apartments which are yet to be seen in antique houses, Stanley walked to and fro, under the friendship of Vaughn, for some time after the capture of Ernest. The hour of the English captain's return was, I said but approximate, which had not been a stranger to repose, unless, perhaps, for a short interval, during the preceding night. He had, in truth, been kept awake by the conflict of his passions, arising from the opposing motives which influenced him in the disposition of his prisoner, for while prudence, as well as a sense of duty urged him to forward Ernest to head quarters, his hatred inspired him to seize the present moment, and avenge himself for the death of his rival. Stanley was too without some feelings of honour; but, in the present case, he was smarting under the consciousness of the exposure of his villainy at the interview between Ernest and Col. Harcourt on the preceding day, a fact of which his emissary had, as we have seen, informed him. The temptation, therefore, to wreak condign and speedy vengeance on his rival was scarcely to be resisted, fraught though the act would be with danger to himself. Still however, Stanley paused; but he determined, but the fear that Ernest, if sent to head quarters might, by some possibility, escape, and the desire to glut his vengeance on the object of his hatred, finally prevailed over the dictates of prudence and the faint whisperings of honour. The struggle, however, continued nearly the whole night, and when long after midnight Stanley threw himself on his couch, sleep fled from his pillow, or came attended by frightful dreams, from which he awoke in horror. Shuddering at the vague terrors of his disordered brain, he hesitated whether he should not recruit his exhausted frame by a refreshing draught, but with a sneer at his want of firmness, he said,

"What! shall a sick dream rob me of my rival's blood?—No, by heaven! he dies!" and he struck the table with his clenched hand. He has crossed me in battle, thwarted me in love, disgraced me at home, and I will have revenge, or" deep, bitter revenge, even if I sacrifice my soul. This post is partly independent, and these are wild and dreadful times,—why cannot I pass his death off as that of a suspected refugee, executed in a moment of sudden heat? Ah! that is the very thought,—what devil suggested it to my brain? Revenge is a sweet morsel to the deeply injured, and well will I roll it under my tongue. And my revenge will be all the sweeter because the deed may never be known of it, and know that—I, (the despised and loathed Stanley,) have done the deed. Sweet Mistress Ellah," and a bitter scorn was on his lips and in his tone, "you will then, perchance, remember the old fable of arousing the lion," but what will Stanley, the lion, care for the doll. Other matters should occupy the mind. What is to be done, should be done quickly," and advancing to the door, he called the sentinel on duty, and bade him—as! and I tell you, Captain Stanley, you yourself shall rue this day. I do a worthy act, whatever you may think of it, when I send you to the guard-house, and I will have revenge, ere

"Your voice is quite changed, and you look as if you had been crying."

"Oh, no, no, said Pauline blushing deeply.

"Whatever it is, my child, I will not have you alone. Ferdinand can go with those ladies, while I remain with you."

"Thank you, mamma—thank you," replied Pauline, imperiously. "I should be so sorry to prevent a meeting! The watcher is charming. I think I should become mad, if I did not use my privilege to arrive."

"I agree with my wife," added Ferdinand, looking at Pauline coldly and steadily "it is a terrible way to attract notice—you could not, accept truly. Is it not so?"

"Ferdinand," said Pauline timidly, "I do not quite understand you. If you think my absence would be wrong—that I ought to go—if you wish it—if you insist upon it——"

"If I insist upon it!" interrupted M. de Livry, with bitterness. "You know I have never insisted upon any thing, Pauline; and it is not when you are ill I would begin."

"I know," said Pauline mildly, "you are always kind to me. Believe me, I did not mean to vex you."

"Mother," said Ferdinand coldly, "we must not be uneasy about leaving Pauline; her illness is not very alarming—and the ladies are waiting."

"You really wish I should leave you?" said the Marquise, holding out her hand to Pauline.

"I wish it," replied Pauline, with an indefinable expression;—"I entreat it."

"Take good care of yourself, love, in our absence, and be quite well on our return."

Ferdinand, contrary to his custom, left the room without speaking to her, though evidently not without a struggle. Pauline looked at him reproachfully, and, when the door was shut, she watched at the window until they drove off, and then fell back upon the couch, and—

Glad forgive me for having entered.

At that moment twelve o'clock struck, and her door opened slowly and noiselessly.

CHAPTER IV.

The person who entered the room was Madame de Meinnert, of whom the reader already knows a little.

"I watched for your husband's going out, dear Pauline; but tell me how you feel?"

"I do not know," replied Madame de Livry, who, on hearing the door open, had jumped up suddenly, as if upon her bed in wild. "I am so glad you have come to me. He was so uneasy, and do not leave me."

"Poor Pauline—what an event!"

"Is it not something unheard of—is it not something too dreadful? It is a miracle how I supported the presence of that man who so much frightens me."

"But the papers—the official letters, all announced the death——"

"If I had not had the most convincing proofs of it, do you think I should ever have received it?"

I see the difficulty of your position, if M. de Livry should know——"

"He knew! Do not make me desperate, Fanny;—do not make me lose the little reason I have."

"What did he say in the note I gave you yesterday evening?"

"Oh, the note!—I learned it immediately, alas! Ferdinand should see it. It was very short—it spoke to me on to-day. He knows there was an excursion planned for the evening, had learned my accidental meeting, but need my husband. There was also a postscript, in which he said I was to ask in seeing him, as he had changed his mind, and his visit would be one of civility. You see, Fanny, I have done all. But what can he want with me? Has he not already done me murdered enough?"

"I hope you are resolved to see him."

"Me! Oh, no! That is the reason I wrote to you in the morning; I reckoned upon your friendship, Fanny."

"What can I do for you?"

"Receive him instead of me."

"What shall I say to him?"

"I care? Notwithstanding all they say, I believe him to be an honest man,—I wish to believe it, at least. Tell him that he has treated me cruelly, and that like some one, but that if Ferdinand knew he still lived, happiness for me would be for ever gone, and I could not live. Tell him—but Fanny, you are a woman,—you are kind —you pity me—you love me. Tell him all that one never tells—all that can touch his heart. Ask for money, in my name: for, when Ferdinand's taking, half of my life, depends on it, I must not be proud."

"Dear Pauline, be calm: I will try to have courage."

At this moment there was a loud knock at the hall door; Madame de Meinnert sprang to the window, and the knocker seemed to have smote her heart. She turned round, and, seeing Pauline's face as white as her own, Madame de Meinnert was terrified.

"Stay, Pauline," said she; "you had better receive your visitor. He will see how you suffer, and may still pity you."

"Oh, no, no!" cried Madame de Livry, "not till I am formed. Nothing but force, Fanny, could make me see that man."

A servant entered and said—

"M. de Fontenay wishes to know if he can see Madame de Livry?"

"Have him up again," said Pauline, in a voice scarcely attentive, and as the servant left the room, she threw herself into Madame de Meinnert's arms.

"Fanny—my own Fanny," said she, overpowered, "I have no hope but in you; I will send forward my letters, and—if it be possible that he leave me still—prove how in the name of love to leave him in peace."

"He is coming up stairs—I hear him," replied Madame de Meinnert, quickly.

Pauline uttered a faint cry, and fled.

At the same moment the servant announced M. de Fontenay. He did not seem surprised at not finding Pauline in the room when he entered, being well accustomed to conceal all his emotions. But when Madame de Meinnert rose, somewhat disconcerted, and looking confused, she had begged her to receive him in her stead, he replied in his usual sweet manner—

"At any other time I should be delighted to play the galant, and tell you I was most happy to see you in the place of Madame de Livry, but to-day I am obliged to be candid,—and it is Madame de Livry I must speak with."

The dry tone in which he said this, disconcerted Madame de Meinnert for a moment, but she commanded Pauline's position, and replied with dignity —

"Monsieur de Fontenay, or rather Monsieur D'Herbemont,—for before me you may let aside your assumed name,—do you think to what danger you expose Pauline's position, by coming to her house ?"

He resumed his chevalier slightly, and replied in the coolest manner—

"Madame de Meinnert, or rather, Fanny Melville,—for before me you may resume your name,—can you tell me what has become of Lord Falconbridge, the partner of a brother at the opera ?"

She to whom this question was addressed did not seem in the least embarrassed, but answered smartly —

"Lord Falconbridge has got a high appointment in India, but before going, settled a pension of a thousand a year on a person who was most sincerely sorry to lose him. But to return to Pauline, will you tell me frankly the meaning of your visit?"

"And," added the trumpeting M. de Fontenay, "the person to whom Lord F——— may not have refused, would not speak of a husband she had left—there—somewhere—on the Continent? Why did she not return to him?"

It was clear she was about to do, when a misfortune prevented her.

"What!"

"Her poor husband."

"Well?"

"He died."

"Then there really was such a person ?"

"Sir!"

"Do not be angry. You ask me questions—I ask you others;—is there sex here in this ?"

"Yes; you do not intend to answer me ?"

"Certainly not."

"One word at least—yes or no—would you run Pauline ?"

"No—that is to say, if I see her, and she will do what I want, I have Pauline to-morrow, and she shall never see me again."

"If she will not refuse, madame,—and that shall, to which you have no necessity, which appears to be a question close, I condescend to say will open immediately."

Madame de Meinnert, who had seen the last words the door was opened violently, and Pauline entered, pale, but dignified.

"I do not refuse," replied D'Herbemont, bowing lowly, "I was as good a prophet."

"And I did not suppose you were so cruel." Then turning to Madame de Meinnert, she said——

"Thank you, dear Fanny, for all your affection. You are a good and faithful friend."

Madame de Meinnert took Pauline's hand, and pressed it warmly, and then turning to the man who had treated her so contemptuously, she said proudly ——

"Monsieur D'Herbemont, I thought you were a gentleman," and left the room.

Pauline, whose whole conveyed him, or that it is impossible for a man who has ever modestly loved a woman, to meet her again with confidence, though he no longer loves her, I know not, but D'Herbemont had lost all his firmness, and Pauline was obliged to break the silence.

"Well, sir, what do you want with me ?"

"Pauline," exasperated he, in a stifled voice.

"Sir, I am ill, and more particularly so when you, sir, I am Madame de Livry. May I beg you to remember it."

"Madame de Livry,—she it somewhat better me, it is not set forth that you have not another name; and when you have proved that, you will be less proud—but I am on the rack——"

"Sir, if I had taken your name, I should have compassion for it, so I do now the one I bear. But speak; you are ill ?"

"I beg your pardon. If I have not been as prompt to explain myself as you are impatient to hear me, it was that I might be more calm, and feel deeply."

"Many—I have many—and will not at once the reason of your visit."

"I cannot tell you without making allowance to circumstances which you have forbidden me to recount you of."

"I did not forbid you, sir, I begged you to spare me, if you have not generosity enough to do so, go on."

"No, madame, you forbid me to speak. I will speak of myself. I am peculiar myself to remark you; but I cannot agree up my mind on the only fact that remains to me in the world. You must feel I wish to speak of my son." And Madame de Livry lost her head, and the last fact in her hands, he continued ——"You should have told me that you were about to become a mother, to demand your judgment, except for the future welfare of my son."

Pauline looked up, and now, less severely than before, said——

"If it was love for your son that brought you, I have pity on you strong,—forgive me. The child is happy, thank God! and his future welfare provided for by a second dead, made by M. de Livry, acknowledging him when he married me, consequently, he is the legitimate inheritor of his property and his name."

"His name!" cried D'Herbemont, impetuously. "What is it you say? What right had you to deprive him of your name, as all the English papers informed the report of my death,—and you were free; but my son—by what power have you disposed of him? He belongs to me, and I have come to claim him."

Pauline remained stupified for some instants after these terrible words, and then cried in a voice scarcely audible——

"To demand him! You come to demand my son ? You, madam," replied D'Herbemont, who had regained all his coolness——

"But you have not understood what I told you," said the unhappy mother. "Paul is the son of M. de Livry, by his second—legal husband, and great pain has my and his fortune."

"M. de Livry can do as he pleases, but I am not bound by his acts. His rights, which are but those of legitimate possession, are nothing before my rights. Am I not the fruit of that union ?—Give him to you, sir—you, whose real name might be known at any moment ?" To tell all—to confess all ! will not speak of the cruelty of ruining a woman who has been doing so! Do you know what you have been doing so? Do you not speak to me of your love—I do not believe in it. Do you speak to me of remorse, for it is to him you owe it more cruel. You would take him from a certain position, to give him, instead, a poor, uncertain, miserable existence! To frightful! Excuse yourself, if you can, sir.—Can do so with one word. You are claiming your child, I can secure more to him than I take from him."

"Explain yourself, then—I see that I am in torture."

"As clearly as I can, madame; like you, I wish to have it ended. You have often heard me speak of my son, and you know how I love him."

"Yes, yes."

"My uncle is enormously rich, and I should be but best, but unfortunately he is prejudiced against me, and has attempted, by every means in his power, to make me says I did my own; and it was only on revoking the will in favour of my son, and on his taking the name of my uncle, that he has consented to make his will. This arrangement suits me: it satisfies his caprice, and is to my interest. My son will be my uncle's heir, but, until his majority, I shall have the power of a father, and can secure more to him than I take from him."

"Explain further, sir—I see that I am in torture."

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"Explain further, sir—I see that I am in torture."

"Madame——"

"But I will not be an accomplice in this, as I have been in many others. Never—never!"

Here there was a silence of some instants. Pauline, who had risen impetuously, sank back upon the arm-chair, at the end of the room, and D'Herbemont, accustomed to wait for a moment, continued, in the hesitational coolness, but, quickly regaining command over himself, he approached Madame de Livry, and striking upon her his steady and penetrating look, he pronounced, in a slow and low tone, the following words:

"Pauline, mind what you are about—we change places. Hitherto I have been at your feet, at your power. Understand a little better your position. This is my son, I shall have it—I am sure of the means of the school where my son is: with that, I shall go and get him, and I shall not return. I have a name and rank to ascend. You can make fitting excuses to account for the child's absence, and the position you fear so much is fully to Madame de Livry, he said in a low but firm tone.

"You still have some hours to deliberate."

Pauline's head began to grow giddy, and her countenance became deadly. When she began to recover a little she remembered the dreadful threat contained in his last words, and, in the hope of softening him, exclaimed—"*If M. de Livry.*" She knew that if M. de Livry was aware that D'Herbemont still lived, and with such a claim on her, he would not have one night's repose, and only in a duel. She had no choice—she must give up her son to the stranger, or expose to him a happy husband, appeared to strike her, for she rushed to the table, and began to write with great rapidity.

"Sir," cowered to part with my son, but on one condition, which I am sure you will not hesitate to grant me."

Madame de Livry held out her hand to him to taken the paper, which he took, and read it twice over, while she murmured humbly——

"He cannot be a monster! I may yet be happy."

In her misery as a wife, Pauline forgot she was a mother; and that the child was dearer to her than even a close, could not and without her relinquishing to M. de Fontenay a blessing still dearer to a woman that herself.

CHAPTER VI.

The place which Pauline occupied in a dark corner of the room, and the attitude she had assumed, favoured the return of her husband, and running gaily to the door, he cried——

"Back already. I am so glad,

"Not so much as you may," replied La Marquise. "Ferdinand was so anxious to return on your account. Is she better?"

"Much better."

"I am glad to hear it. Do you know the news I received on our return? My friend, Madame de Lostenges, whom you have never seen, arrived there in the course of the day, I do not receive the letter I have forwarded. I shall see her now quite enough, and will then you throw yourself at my feet; and do you remember what you are to say?"

"Oh, one can forget most fall!" cried Pauline, as from her chair, and running to D'Herbemont; but slowly he was at the door, which was open, and, without replying to Madame de Livry, he said in a low but firm tone——

"You still have some hours to deliberate."

Pauline's head began to grow giddy, and her countenance became deadly. When she began to recover a little she remembered the dreadful threat contained in his last words, and, in the hope of softening him, exclaimed—"*If M. de Livry.*" She knew that if M. de Livry was aware that D'Herbemont still lived, and with such a claim on her, he would not have one night's repose, and only in a duel. She had no choice—she must give up her son to the stranger, or expose to him a happy husband, appeared to strike her, for she rushed to the table, and began to write with great rapidity.

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CHAPTER VI.

"The sun was setting in full glory and majesty behind the woods of Meinnert, when Madame de Livry, all in white, wrapped in a large shawl, and carefully veiled, left the house, and, avoiding the high road, which was traversed hastily but hastily, various streets, at last stopped before a humble cottage, which was the object for course herself she was unobserved, entered quickly the house, and would, in a few seconds, have fled in the arms of Fontenay.

"M. de Fontenay is gone out," replied the porter.

"Out!" replied the unknown, who was obliged to lean against the wall to prevent herself falling.

"Yes, madame; but if you would wish to wait——"

"I will wait!" said the lady, firmly.

A servant passing at this moment, the porter desired him to show the stranger into M. de Fontenay's study.

"You must, of course, mother, ask her to come to us."

"And that your solitude may not be disturbed, and it not be well that one of you should come with me."

"I will," said Pauline, and once Pauline at such moment she will go with you."

"Excuse us," said Pauline; "but I have something to do."

"Oh," said M. de Livry, in the most natural manner, perhaps a letter begun. I will not disturb you, and writing when we came in; but it will be time enough when you retire."

"Ferdinand," murmured Pauline tremblingly.

"Madame," added Mrs. Ferdinand, "is now your company my mother; and on your return I must beg a moment's conversation with you."

Pauline looked timidly at her husband; but though with a trembling hand and disconcerted appearance of countenance. She gave her arm to the Marquise, and went out of the room.

Left to himself, M. de Livry commenced walking up and down the room in a state of great agitation. He had not done so more than three or four times, when he was suddenly stopped by Pauline, who entered at the moment looking more southern, more morose, and more bloodthirsty than ever.

"What do you want?" said Ferdinand, with a disturbed countenance.

"My dear fellow," said he, putting his finger on his mouth mysteriously, "I have come to——"

"Speak—I beg you—you can no longer."

"What things! Speak—go on—can't you speak, then?"

"Let me recover myself a little; I am wounded. Your mother was quite right when she advised me not to speak. I am wounded—I am ill. She is correct. She is a prophet."

"You have, then, fresh cause for anger——"

"Have I? Have I not?" replied Clodion, with a great agitation. "You will not say now that I am blinded by jealousy. When I left you this morning I believed that I had been deceived, and I returned—I wished to see her—to speak to her—to reproach her for her deceit—to tell her that I knew all, and, when I saw her, I had a headache. You know what a headache means when I am angry."

"Well, and then."

"And then—madame, but suspecting it to be an excuse, I went to a friend's (not opposite and remained there for an hour, when I left, and was only going to my own house, when I was met by a man who told me that Madame de Meinnert gave me—your name, should not be known at any one. The letter was written in a hand which

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

None but the cleanest and most compact can appear under the head of "Communications," and at present the literary matter is crowded out of sight. Our readers' eyes will be strange, pressing strange. Hear it.

"There was a maiden all forlorn,
A mourning for her lover gone—
With fingers lily-white and slim,
She beat the bushes on the tree for him;
She had no heart to sing or play
But mourned her lover the coming morn—
So old she went in a thin gown—
And sorrow thin all over town."

And so forth in the end of the chapter. It reminds us of the old rhyme,

"Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye."

The less his come unto Philadelphia."

We like it. Encouragement—Go on. Freshness about his verses that charms us. They are, however, too disdainful of the terms of rhyme to look well in print. But he can do it him: he has only to cultivate art and he will succeed.

The piece entitled "Alexandria" has meritorious lines, but as a whole would require to be added more from the writer's lady-love. We give the best stanzas.

"Ah! I will sigh to thee beside the wave,
Like a lone bird, 'neath the cold breeze that blows,
Whose feathers flutter in the gale,
Embittered with a twilight tale."

The fine story "Adelaide Deauly," which has been in our hands for a month, will appear.

From a poem entitled "Thoughts on the Past, Present, and Future," we have derived much amusement. The author graphically describes his school-boy days. Thus

"I remember well one game
It was Blind-man's Buff I mean,
When they put down the ball
Then with a very loud call
At it such one struck, and ran
There was Princess Nicodemus,
He did let his club fly
And shut my brother's eye
Which made him so much pain
That I thought I'd never
Think of such a game again
Youth's not free from danger free."

The last two lines of moral reflections are particularly rich. Here is a bit of philosophy:

Mode of youths various
As the form of the face
That passes the doctors rue
Some wish to do."

The author asks us to punctuate for him, so he is not quite an adept yet. We think we have given sufficient proof to his thyself, at any rate, we have put a stop to them.

The Nut Cracker.

The Boston Transcript has now and then a good thing in it. It is generally, however, too much given to sweetness. The manner was this. "To begin, then, take from old newspapers all poetry, original and selected, and you will have a fair specimen of the worst kind of words, additions to which may be obtained from Webster's abridgment. Should you find you have not words enough to express your ideas, place one under the other, on the right hand of the paper, thus

poke.
smoke.

You will find but little difficulty in filling up the lines with the usual sentimental phrase.

Dear girl, in your eye my finger I—spoke
To show in your heart you'd set me on fire—smoke.

Should the lines limp a little by one having a shorter leg than its neighbor, you may look in the abbreviations, or elongate it by interjection or repetition, thus

Oh! Sophia, Sophia, Sophia, O!
I never love you as my leg is—so!
O, thunder—O, lightning—ah! O!

Poetry is measured by the foot, as calico is by the yard. Two syllables make a foot of poetry, and three feet make a yard of calico. In writing very long lines, care must be observed to count the syllables of the first word on the fingers, so that in reading, it may come "trippingly off," like the recitation of a policeman, or the sound produced by a steam saw-mill, thus:

Dear soul (I've long) counted your lot safe of the brook,
And your (sweet) counsel was (a) blessing to (me) all the crook.

This is decidedly rich, and we commend it to all love-stricken swains.

Muffs, also, with much bombast, is often really eloquent, in the sense of being full of meaning. We could that he always wrote thus: "Intellect is an enchanter. Long years did Mozart and Beethoven sit in the magic of harmony scatter over the chill vaults of the sepulcher, and the dead start into life: pale, patrolled, pensionless artists, they went forth never more to be unknown. The fragrance of their spirit breath stirs in their time-bleached locks; their thrilling knees are agues on our lips. With their spirits are we familiar, and with their memories. Intellect is the only true nobility. We invest them with transcendent power; they are now lovelier than the bosoms of this world, the bosoms that have pillowed their forms with better sympathy; their eyes look deep into ours, with caressing love; their intellectual power! Mind is a contrast of spirit with spirit! What a re-union between the severed! Can it be possible that in this spot disjoint, but one spirit can hold communion with the sundering but an imaginary bliss! No—no. Intellect has a taste that can summon its loved from the spirit world. In the scene of to-night, I say, with a slow enthusiasm, to the great father of spirits, clasp the spirit of my dead. In the spirit of my dead, I say to the spirit of my living. I rubbed farewell long years gone by. Not only in the arms of my fancy, but really, and indeed, in intellectual affinity, may I embrace my sweet daughter. Intellect whose angel spirit in life pined for my happiness, and whose last accents, as her tongue froze in death, murmured my name!"

We never met with a better illustration of "the blue lie" than in the following story of a Yankee captain and his mate. He wished to have the publishing made by the captain's orders, all the plums were put into one end of it, and that end placed next to the captain, who, after helping himself, passed it on to the mate, who served the rest of the company in the same manner

Lever's New Novel.

OUR MESS.

By Jack Hinton, the Guardsman.

CHAPTER XXXIV.
THE MORTIMER TWINS.

On the whole, the journey to the west a delightful one, and certainly not the least pleasant portion of my life in Ireland. Endowed—partly with his individual gifts, partly from the nature of a sacred functionary with an influence over all the humble ranks in life, the good priest jogged along with the assurance of a beauty welcome wherever he pleased to halt, the only look of disappointment being when he declined some proffered civility or refused an invitation to delay his journey. The chariot was well known in every town and village, and scarcely was the crackle of its wheels heard coming up the "Avenue," when the population might be seen assembling in little groups and knots, to have a word with "the father"—to get his blessing—to catch his eye, or even obtain a nod from him. He knew every one and every thing, with a tact which is believed to be the prerogative of royalty; he never miscalled a name, nor mistook an event. Inquiries for them, for soul and body, he entered with real interest into all their hopes and plans, their fears and anticipations, and indeed were almost their pensioner, purgatory, and poltroon, in a way that showed his information, on any of those matters, to be of no mean or common order.

By degrees, our way left the more traveled roads, and led back by a mountain path, through a wild romantic line of country beside the river Shannon. No villages now presented themselves, and, shielded by the fastness of any habitation whatever; large misshapen mountains, whose granite sides were scarce concealed by the field furze, the only vegetation that clothed them, rose around and above us. In the valley, a single strip of bog might be seen with little hillocks of newly-cut turf, the only symbols of man's work, the eye could rest on, where there was none. A dreary silence, too, reigned throughout. I fancied, as I rode by the bleating of a lamb, or the solitary tinkle of a sheep-bell; but no—save the cawing of the rooks, on the mountain cry of the plover, I could hear nothing. Now and then, it is true, the heavy flapping of a strong wing would pass the crown of my hat, as a soaring towards the river, but his low flight even spoke of solitude, and showed he feared not man, as his wild and dreary mountain. At intervals we could see the Shannon winding along, far, far down below us, and I could mark the islands in the bay of Scariff, with their ruined churches and round towers; but no life could we see on the surface, nor did we ever break the sluggish current of the stream. It was, indeed, a dreary scene, and I could not help thinking, as every sense around colored by its influence, for scarcely had he entered the little valley that led to this romantic spot, when, then, he became silent and thoughtful, absorbed in reflection, and when he spoke, either doing so at random, or in a vague and distant way, that showed his ideas were wandering.

I remember that, as we passed at a little forge early after day-break, the crash had taken the priest aside and whispered to him a few words, at which he seemed strangely moved; and as they spoke together for some moments in an under tone, I perceived by the sign of the face, as well as by the agitation of the father himself, that something of importance was being said. I was about wanting to finish the pipe in the carriage which had caught my halt, to accomplish hastily, and without leaving me to take my place, drove on at a pace that spoke of haste and eagerness, and I could, like my curiosity to know the reason was great, but as I could not with propriety ask, nor yet by companion make mention of it for the information, I soon relapsed into a silence unbroken on his own, and we traveled along for some miles without speaking. Now and then the priest would make an effort to relieve the tension of the story he seemed to have upon the scenery, or some allusion to the well grandeur of the pass; but it was plain he could by no effort command attention, and that his mind was occupied on other and very different thoughts. It was now wearing late, and per no trace of any house or habitation could I discern, where to rest for the night. Not wishing, however, to interrupt the current of my friend's thoughts, I maintained at first a reason, steering my eyes on every side, from the dark mountains that towered above me, to the narrow glen or valley that lay several hundred feet beneath our track—but all in vain. The offense was undeniable, as the old road, not even a smoke-wreath, could be seen for as the view extended.

The road by which we traveled was scarped from the side of a mountain, and for some miles pursued a gradually descending course. On suddenly turning the angle of a rocky wall that skirted us for above a mile, we came in sight of a long reach of the Shannon upon which the sun was now setting in all its golden splendor. The distant shore of Munster, rich in tillage and pasture-land, was lit up, too, with cool and delicious light, and the wood and blue mountains, all glowing in their brightest hue. It was a wild and a gorgeous picture, and I could have looked on it long with pleasure, when suddenly I felt my arm grasped in a strong grip. I turned round, and the priest, raising his hand, pointed down into the dark valley below us to be said in a low and earnest voice—"You see the light—it is there—there." Quickening our pace by every effort, we began rapidly to descend the mountain by a zig-zag road, whose windings were lost us to the view I have mentioned, and left nothing but the wild and barren mountain-side around. Timed as our pace horse was, the priest pressed him forward, and, regardless of the broken road, seemed to be resolved to think of nothing but his haste, muttering between his teeth with a low but rapid articulation, which his face grew flushed and pale at intervals, and his eye had all the intense glare and restless look of fever. I endeavored, as well as I was able, to occupy my mind with other thoughts, but with that irresistible fascination that turns an eye to the side we try to shun, I found myself again and again gazing on my companion's countenance. Every moment now his agitation increased, his lips were firmly closed, his brow contracted, his cheek flattened, and quivering with a nervous spasm, while his hand trembled violently as he wiped the big drops of sweat that rolled in agony from his forehead.

At last we reached the level, where a horse road pre sented itself before us, and enabled us to increase our speed; then we were rapidly coming up with the light, which, as the evening closed in, seemed larger and brighter than before. It was now that horse after horse-laden seems falling into sight, a gray somber darkness coloring every object, but not veiling grass and rock, the pathway and river with your seeming of their number; here, so that as we came along I could make out the roof and walls of a rural cabin built against the very mountain side, in the gable of which the light was placed.

A rapid, a momentary thought flashed across my mind as to what dreary and solitary spot could fix its dwelling-place to such a spot as this, when in an instant the priest violently pulled up the horse, and, stretching out one hand with a gesture of intense, whispered—"Hush! —hist! you not hear that?—As he spoke, a cry, wild and fearful, rose through the glorious valley—first in one prolonged and swelling note, then broken as if by sobs, it labored, rent, and now upsingultor and naught, and then echoing up the fearful sounds, renewed and repeated them with such a chorus of unearthly accents were calling to each other through the air.

"Oh, God! it is the—the—late," said the priest, as he loosed his face upon his knees, and his strong frame shook in agony. "Oh Father of mercy," he cried, as he lifted his eyes, bloodshot and tearful, toward heaven, "forgive me this—and if comforters before them—Another cry, more frantic than before, here burst upon us and the priest, starting with rapid utterance, appeared lost to power. But as him I looked no longer, for straight before us on the road, and in front of the little cabin, now not above thirty paces from us, knelt the figure of a woman, whose, even if not from the beating sounds we had heard, one could scarce believe a thing of life: her age not more than thirty years, she was pale as death; not a tinge, not a ray of color streaked her bloodless cheek, her hands free, long and wild, fell from her back and shoulders, straggling and disordered; her head was bent over the body that her widowed arms supported before her. Her dress bespoke the meanest poverty, and her scant clothes and dowse in her tattered misery and starvation. As I gazed on her almost breathless with awe and dread, the priest leaped out, and hurried forward, called out to her in loud, but she heard him not, nor saw him nor—nothing to every sense, she remained still and motionless. At length, however, as the man shook; she knelt before us the image of stone; and then, as if by some spell were broken between her and more gave forth the heart-rending cry we heard at first. Now, low and plaintive, like the wailing, wild, of the rose fuller and fuller, pausing and continuing at intervals, and then bursting into shrill and fitful effort, more wilder and stronger, till, at last, with one outbreak, like the overflowing of a burst of misery, it ceased altogether.

The priest bent over her and spoke to her: he called her by her name, and shook her severely, but all was in vain. Her spirit, if indeed present with the body, had fled off, unable with things of earth.

"God help her," said he; "God comfort her. This is more affliction."

As he spoke he walked towards the little cabin, the door of which stood open. All was silent—not a sound within its walls. I turned to see the dwellings of the poor in Ireland, are one amongst over the bare walls, the mud and earthen floor, the few and miserable pieces of furniture, when suddenly my attention was called to a ladder and a sudden spectacle. In one corner of the hovel, stretched upon a pallet of straw, a young man lay dead, the smoothly of a day's lie in, lay the figure of a large and powerfully-built one, about five feet. His eyes were closed, and the chin bound up with a white cloth, and a sheet, torn and ragged, extended above the cold limbs, while on either side of him two candles were burning. His features, though rigid and stiffened, were manly and even handsome; the bold character of the face heightened in effect by the beard and moustache, which appeared to have been let grow for some time previous, and that the cloth and waving curl looked darker, from the pallor around it. Some time there were about the mourner that looked like loneliness and severity, but the struggle of departing life might have caused this.

Gently withdrawing my thoughts from the scene, the priest placed himself at the head of the bed, and began to pray. It was evident to me from his manner, that he still retained him living, and as he folded his hands, crossing to let fall his head, muttering, he fell back for an instant, and as he moved his fingers backwards and forwards I saw that they were covered with blood. I drew near, and now perceived that the dead man's chest was laid open by a wound of several inches in extent. The rule had ceased, and the blood was clotted on the hair of long wound to protrude. At the slightest touch of the body the blood gushed forth anew, and ran in streams upon him. His right hand, too, was across the entire palm—the wound most severed at the point. This appeared to have been rudely bound together; but it was evident, from the manner and the size of the other wound, that he could not have survived it many hours.

As I looked in horror at the frightful spectacle before me, my first attack at examining beneath the bed. I stooped down to examine, and found it was a carbine, such as dragoons usually carry. It was broken at the stock and bruised in many places, but still seemed not serviceable. Part of the lock-and was also stained with blood. The clothes of the dead man, clotted and stained with gore, were also there, adding, by their tattered appearance, to the evidence that he had fallen in every thing confessed it,—murder and crime had been there. Low, muttering sound now made me turn my eyes on the priest, who, kneeling beside the bed, was engaged in prayer. His head was bare, and he wore a kind of scarf of fine silk, and the small cone of consecration the last time of his church was placed at his feet.

I apparently to all around, save the figure of the man that lay dead before him, he muttered, with consummate rapidity, prayer after prayer, stopping, ever and anon, to place his hand on the cold head, or listen, with his ear upon the livid lips; and then suddenly, with a fervent eagerness, while the big drops rolled from his forehead, and the sprinkling tones of his voice betrayed his emotion—

"Oh God!" he exclaimed, after a prayer of some minutes, in which his features worked like one in a fit of epilepsy,—"Oh God, is it then true is this?"

He started to his feet as he spoke, and bending over the corpse, with breathless attention, laid his head, he poured forth a whole torrent of words in Irish, swaying his body backwards and forwards, as his voice, becoming broken by emotion, now sunk into a whisper, or broke into its former shout—now—"Shane," "Shane," as he drew his long down to the ground he scratched up the little crucifix and held it before the face, and, much for the same time he shook him violently by the shoulders, and cried, in accents of agony, "Shane—Shane—Shane," the echoes which alone I could complain, one-word—Then, the Irish he used for God. He shook him till the head rocked backwards from side, and the hands moved from the opening wound, and stained the ragged covering of the shirt. At this instant the priest stopped suddenly, and fell upon his knees, while, with a low, faint sigh, he who seemed dead lifted his eyes and looked around him. He then grasped the sides of the bed, and, with a strength that none of himself, and he raised himself to the sitting posture. His lips were parted and moved, but without a sound; his eyes were fixed, and seemed to look upon from one object to another, till, at length, they fell upon the little crucifix that the priest had placed upon the bed. In an instant the expression of his features changed, and, with a convulsive effort, he seized it from his eyes—the head nodded forward a couple of inches, and, with a deep sigh, passed a few bloody bubbles from the open mouth, and, a moment after, the head fell back with a crash, never to move more.

Overcome with horror, I staggered from the door, and each upon a little bench in front of the cabin. The cool air of the night was refreshing to the feelings of my own confused state, I wondered if the whole might not be some dreadful dream, but my eyes every now and then, the figure of the woman, who still knelt in the attitude we had first seen her. Her long hair was clasped from time to time her wild cry rose into the air, and the echoes of that silent valley. For a long time I could not collect my thoughts sufficiently to reason upon what had occurred, or to form any plan for my future guidance. My head was burning, and my pulse throbbed violently. I was conscious that I had been exposed to the night air, and that I was in a state of fever and incipient delirium. I remember, however, that I arose from the bench, and, with a vague and distracted purpose, entered the little cabin; but all was as before, nothing changed, and when, prompted by curiosity, I looked closely into the bed, I saw the priest still kneeling beside the bed, his face pale, and stark, and haggard, as the features of the dead man, on the pale as the party near him.

I dared not speak—I dared not disturb him, and I sank down near the door in silence.

Even in the most unusual anomalies of our nature, that the feelings which rend our hearts with agony have a power, by the mere influence of time, to lull us to repose. The watcher by the bed-side of his dying friend—the mother by the cradle of her child, have both experienced sleep soundly. The Bitterness of grief would seem to limit sensation, and the mind, like the body, can only sustain a certain amount of burden, after which it sinks beneath the weight. Such was the case with me. Fever and anguish, with every thing to excite that can be imagined, had preceded the most unusual excitement and sensitive by grief—the dead man as it were recalled to life, and the priest would make an effort to relieve the horror of the story he seemed to have upon the scenery, or some allusion to the well grandeur of the pass; but it was plain he could by no effort command attention, and that his mind was occupied on other and very different thoughts. It was now wearing late, and per no trace of any house or habitation could I discern, where to rest for the night. Not wishing, however, to interrupt the current of my friend's thoughts, I maintained at first a reason, steering my eyes on every side, from the dark mountains that towered above me, to the narrow glen or valley that lay several hundred feet beneath our track—but all in vain. The offense was undeniable, as the old road, not even a smoke-wreath, could be seen for as the view extended.

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